

REMARKS

The specification has been further amended to make an editorial change.

Claim 31 has been amended to remove the redundant limitation. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 31 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 12-13, 15-17, and 19-20 were rejected as unpatentable over SUZUKI et al. 6,036,300 in view of YAMADA et al. 6,089,766. Claim 5 was rejected further in view of KATSURAGI JP 403256445, claims 8 and 14 were rejected further in view of SAITO et al. 5,508,722, claim 18 was rejected further in view of OSAWA et al. 6,552,819, and claim 34 was rejected further in view of SUZUKI et al. 5,353,052. Claim 1 has been amended and claim 20 has been canceled. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Amended claim 1 defines a recording section for successively recording, on the basis of information about plural input images, plural printed output images on a recording medium by ejecting recording droplets from ejection openings of a single recording head and adhering the droplets onto the recording medium, wherein the monitoring section monitors whether the phenomenon has occurred by comparing results of reading each of the plural printed output images, which correspond to the plural input

images and which are successively recorded by said single recording head, with one another.

By contrast, the combination of SUZUKI et al. and YAMADA et al. discloses test patterns that are created by plural recording heads and compared with one another. For example, in YAMADA et al., the test patterns are created by plural recording heads and compared to make recording head alignment adjustments. There is no suggestion in the combination to provide a monitoring section that monitors whether the phenomenon has occurred by comparing results of reading each of the plural printed output images, which correspond to the plural input images and which are successively recorded by the single recording head, with one another. The other references do not make up for this shortcoming. Accordingly, the amended claims avoid the rejections under §103.

Claims 9-11, 26-27, and 29-33 were rejected as unpatentable over SUZUKI et al. '300 in view of OSAWA et al. Claim 24 was rejected further in view of KATSURAGI and claims 25 and 28 were rejected further in view of SAITO et al. Claim 9 has been amended and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Among other features, claim 9 provides that the monitoring section monitors whether the phenomenon has occurred by determining whether a decrease in a vacant storage capacity of

the storage section has occurred. This is explained, for example, at page 33 of the present application.

The Official Action acknowledges that SUZUKI et al. do not disclose monitoring a decrease in vacant storage capacity and relies on OSAWA et al. for the suggestion to modify SUZUKI et al. OSAWA et al. detects available capacity of the image information memory to prevent overflow of the memory (column 5, line 61 through column 6, line 3), but does not relate this to monitoring whether a phenomenon which may hinder image recording has occurred. In other words, OSAWA et al. does not determine from a decrease in vacant storage capacity that the phenomenon that hinders image recording has occurred. The suggestion to look to the decrease in vacant storage capacity as a warning that image recording is being hindered is absent from the proposed combination and thus the amended claims avoid this rejection under §103.

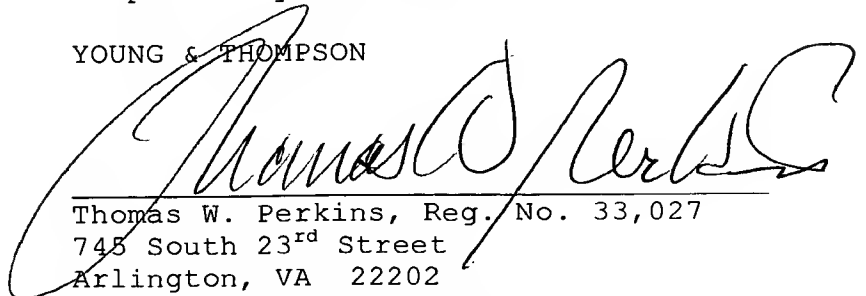
In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment

to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required
under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Thomas W. Perkins". The signature is written over a horizontal line that separates it from the printed contact information below.

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